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Docket No.: 0020-5429PUS1
(PATENT)

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Patent Application of:
Yuko SAWAKI et al.

Application No.: 10/551,188

Confirmation No.: 1816

Filed: September 29, 2005

Art Unit: N/A

For: COMPOSITE INDIUM OXIDE PARTICLE,
METHOD FOR PRODUCING SAME,
CONDUCTIVE COATING MATERIAL,
CONDUCTIVE COATING FILM, AND
CONDUCTIVE SHEET

Examiner: Not Yet Assigned

LETTER

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

Subsequent to the filing of the above-identified application on September 29, 2005, attached hereto is an English translation of the International Preliminary Examination Report (Form PCT/IPEA/409) that should be made of record in the present application.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or to credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any

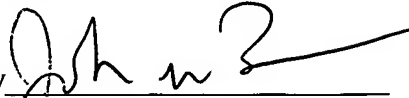
Application No.: 10/551,188

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additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Dated: OCT 19 2006

Respectfully submitted,

By 

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Attachment(s)

Translation

PATENT COOPERATION TREATY

PCT

INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY REPORT ON PATENTABILITY
(Chapter II of the Patent Cooperation Treaty)

(PCT Article 36 and Rule 70)

Applicant's or agent's file reference 664404	FOR FURTHER ACTION	See Form PCT/IPEA/416
International application No. PCT/JP2004/004655	International filing date (day/month/year) 31.03.2004	Priority date (day/month/year) 01.04.2003
International Patent Classification (IPC) or national classification and IPC		
Applicant HITACHI MAXELL, LTD.		

1. This report is the international preliminary examination report, established by this International Preliminary Examining Authority under Article 35 and transmitted to the applicant according to Article 36.

2. This REPORT consists of a total of 4 sheets, including this cover sheet.

3. This report is also accompanied by ANNEXES, comprising:

a. ☐ (sent to the applicant and to the International Bureau) a total of _____ sheets, as follows:

☐ sheets of the description, claims and/or drawings which have been amended and are the basis for this report and/or sheets containing rectifications authorized by this Authority (see Rule 70.16 and Section 607 of the Administrative Instructions).

☐ sheets which supersede earlier sheets, but which this Authority considers contain an amendment that goes beyond the disclosure in the international application as filed, as indicated in item 4 of Box No. I and the Supplemental Box.

b. ☐ (sent to the International Bureau only) a total of (indicate type and number of electronic carrier(s)) _____, containing a sequence listing and/or tables related thereto, in computer readable form only, as indicated in the Supplemental Box Relating to Sequence Listing (see Section 802 of the Administrative Instructions).

4. This report contains indications relating to the following items:

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Box No. I	Basis of the report
<input type="checkbox"/>	Box No. II	Priority
<input type="checkbox"/>	Box No. III	Non-establishment of opinion with regard to novelty, inventive step and industrial applicability
<input type="checkbox"/>	Box No. IV	Lack of unity of invention
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Box No. V	Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement
<input type="checkbox"/>	Box No. VI	Certain documents cited
<input type="checkbox"/>	Box No. VII	Certain defects in the international application
<input type="checkbox"/>	Box No. VIII	Certain observations on the international application

Date of submission of the demand	Date of completion of this report
Name and mailing address of the IPEA/JP	Authorized officer
Facsimile No.	Telephone No.

INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY REPORT ON PATENTABILITY

International application No.

PCT/JP2004/004655

Box No. I Basis of the report

1. With regard to the language, this report is based on the international application in the language in which it was filed, unless otherwise indicated under this item.

- ☐ This report is based on translations from the original language into the following language _____ which is the language of a translation furnished for the purposes of:
- ☐ international search (Rule 12.3 and 23.1(b))
 - ☐ publication of the international application (Rule 12.4)
 - ☐ international preliminary examination (Rule 55.2 and/or 55.3)

2. With regard to the elements of the international application, this report is based on (replacement sheets which have been furnished to the receiving Office in response to an invitation under Article 14 are referred to in this report as "originally filed" and are not annexed to this report):

- ☒ the international application as originally filed/furnished
- ☐ the description:

pages _____ as originally filed/furnished

pages* _____ received by this Authority on _____

pages* _____ received by this Authority on _____

- ☐ the claims:
- nos. _____ as originally filed/furnished

nos.* _____ as amended (together with any statement) under Article 19

nos.* _____ received by this Authority on _____

nos.* _____ received by this Authority on _____

- ☐ the drawings:
- sheets _____ as originally filed/furnished

sheets* _____ received by this Authority on _____

sheets* _____ received by this Authority on _____

- ☐ a sequence listing and/or any related table(s) – see Supplemental Box Relating to Sequence Listing.

3. ☐ The amendments have resulted in the cancellation of:

☐ the description, pages _____

☐ the claims, nos. _____

☐ the drawings, sheets/figs _____

☐ the sequence listing (specify): _____

☐ any table(s) related to sequence listing (specify): _____

4. ☐ This report has been established as if (some of) the amendments annexed to this report and listed below had not been made, since they have been considered to go beyond the disclosure as filed, as indicated in the Supplemental Box (Rule 70.2(c)).

☐ the description, pages _____

☐ the claims, nos. _____

☐ the drawings, sheets/figs _____

☐ the sequence listing (specify): _____

☐ any table(s) related to sequence listing (specify): _____

* If item 4 applies, some or all of those sheets may be marked "superseded."

INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY REPORT ON PATENTABILITY

International application No.

PCT/JP2004/004655

Box No. V Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement

1. Statement

Novelty (N)	Claims	2-12	YES
	Claims	1, 13-15	NO
Inventive step (IS)	Claims	2-12	YES
	Claims	1, 13-15	NO
Industrial applicability (IA)	Claims	1-15	YES
	Claims		NO

2. Citations and explanations (Rule 70.7)

Document 1: JP 3-33185 A (Nichia Chemical Industries, Ltd.), 13 February 1991

Document 2: JP 2001-332134 A (TDK Corp.), 30 November 2001

The inventions set forth in claims 1 and 13 to 15 lack novelty and do not involve an inventive step in the light of documents 1 and 2 cited in the international search report.

Explanation

Document 1 discloses particles of a conductive compound represented by general formula (a), which have an average particle diameter of between 0.01 to 2.00 μm .

General Formula (a): $\text{In}_{(2-x-y)}\text{Sn}_x\text{M}_y\text{O}_z$

Within general formula (a), x conforms to the relational expression $0 < x \leq 1$, y conforms to the relational expression $0 < y \leq 1$, z conforms to the relational expression $0 < z \leq 5$ and M represents Zn, Ti or the like.

INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY REPORT ON PATENTABILITY

International application No.

PCT/JP2004/004655

Box No. V

Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability;
citations and explanations supporting such statement

In addition, document 1 (example 3) discloses compounds that are represented by general formula (a), wherein the variable M represents the element Zn.

Conductive films which are obtained by coating a coating material that comprises conductive particles upon a support and then drying said coating material are well known (refer to the claims, paragraph [0036], the examples and the like of document 2); therefore, it would be easy for a person skilled in the art to conceive of configuring a conductive coating material and a conductive film that employ the conductive particles that are disclosed in document 1.